

## A Good Friend of India

London correspondence "United India," published at Madras, India: India reformers, I imagine, would be surprised did they know how many first class Americans are taking an interest in the problems which so sorely vex Indian publicists. In saying this, I speak of that which I personally know—knowledge which is painful and not pleasing, for the very promising field of effort in the United States, like the equally promising field held in the United Kingdom, is only very slightly cultivated; indeed, I only know of one man who is delving in this field across the Atlantic. Among the distinguished Americans who are interested in India is that very able man, William Jennings Bryan, twice democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States. The author of "Prosperous British India" found him an eager student of Indian affairs and so much in appreciation with the contents of that work as to place its author on the free list of The Commoner, a weekly paper started and edited by Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan is in England at the present moment, on his first visit to the home of his forbears. With characteristic energy he is cramming three months' work into three weeks of time, and, as a consequence, that special interview which I should have liked to have had with him on the part which the Anglo-Saxon race should play in the development and upliftment of the nations with whom they are brought into familiar and close relations, became impossible. Only a slight friendly interchange of compliments was feasible. However, if I did not have a quiet, confidential talk with the great man, all to myself, I had the next best thing. In common with nearly two hundred other members of the National Liberal club, I was entranced, on Monday night last, with a thirty minutes' speech from the great "spell-binder" orator. ("Spell-binder": one who holds his hearers spell-bound by the interest and eloquence of his speech—a word which, quite recently, has won the admiration of the distinguished English journalist, Mr. H. W. Lucy.) The occasion was a dinner, followed by a discussion on fiscal matters—one of a series of meetings held to debate the most important features of the fiscal inquiry. The chief speaker of the evening was that acute and forcible parliamentarian, Mr. W. S. Robson, K. C., member for South Shields. His dissection of Mr. Balfour's policy of retaliation and Mr. Chamberlain's out-and-out protection was at once an intellectual treat and a most destructive assault. In his quiet, humorous, and incisive way, Mr. Robson made the "tearing, raging" demonstration appear the mean and paltry thing it is. He proved Mr. Balfour's policy to be a misnamed policy and a dishonest policy, a futile, weak and dangerous policy also. Following Mr. Robson came the American orator. The National Liberal club, said Mr. Bryan, was the first institution of that kind in any foreign land that had conferred its honorary membership upon him. He knew no club he was so anxious to become identified with; its designation as a liberal organization greatly appealed to him. He proposed to mark the event of the honor done to him by leaving a volume for the Gladstone Library. It was a cyclopedia of the works of Thomas Jefferson, "the greatest constructive statesman the world has ever seen." Then after a few quotations from this book, all received with cheers, and all dominated by a nobly expressed belief in righteousness, justice, and mercy, Mr. Bryan came to the tariff question. He had been talking about it all his life, he said. He gave a little history of how the United States tariffs rose out of the civil war, and then an account of the successive arguments which had been used in their favor. The time

came when everybody said that tariffs were unnecessary, but those who had profited by them—who had grown so big on them that they were able "not only to stand on their own feet, but to walk over the feet of others"—knew that they must all hang together or all hang separately. There was not a little playful banter of this kind, with much underlying seriousness, and many entertaining and yet biting illustrations. Mr. Bryan concluded with a fine peroration, first in praise of free speech, because "in the attempt to prevent the expression of error you are apt to prevent the expression of truth," and then in assertion of the truth that righteousness exalteth a nation. "There will everywhere finally," said Mr. Bryan, "be the triumph of every righteous cause." Mr. Bryan had the courage to do that which only a few public speakers are able to do with success and with the full sympathy of their audience. He quoted some verses from the Bible, from the prophet Isaiah. An Englishman, as a rule, objects to Biblical quotations in political oratory and is uncomfortable when they are employed. As with John Bright, so with Mr. Bryan—and with both because of their hearty and obvious sincerity—the deepest appreciation was felt and expressed regarding the high moral tone involved in the daring quotation and application. Altogether an evening to be remembered and rejoiced over was last Monday's at the National Liberal club with the English parliamentarian and the American democrat.

### SENATORS PLEDGE PARKER SUPPORT AT CONFERENCE.

August Belmont, Meets Democratic Leaders in Bacon's Room at Capitol and Departs Jubilant.

### HARMONY MESSAGES SENT TO MURPHY AND HILL.

Solid West and South for Parker if New York Sends Instructed Delegation.

(Special to The World.) Washington, April 1.—It is now practically assured that the solid south and west, as represented in the democratic national convention next July, will support the candidacy of Judge Parker of New York for the presidential nomination provided New York instructs for Parker.

This fact developed at the capitol today, when a conference lasting three hours was held by democratic senators with August Belmont of New York representing Judge Parker's friends.

Mr. Belmont arrived this morning from Atlantic City. He had been summoned to Washington by several leading democratic senators who favor the Parker nomination and who desired to discuss the situation with him.

Mr. Belmont left for New York tonight with messages from the democrats of the senate, practically as a body, to Leader Murphy of New York city, and to David B. Hill.

The message to Murphy is: "Allow the delegation from New York to St. Louis to be instructed for Parker and he will be nominated. The south and west look for such instructions, and they will insure his nomination. The south and west are ready to follow New York's lead, support Parker and effect his nomination on the first ballot."

The message to Hill is: "Insist upon instructions. The south and west are with you."

Mr. Belmont, after the conference, was jubilant. Upon returning to his

hotel he found awaiting him southern and western representatives who had heard of the senate conference and who desired to talk with him concerning Parker's prospects.

### Mr. Bryan's Moral Attitude.

The marvel of it is that in this splendid age of moral ideas so few men have had the grace to rise above interest and faction to an appreciation of Mr. Bryan's civic courage and integrity of conviction.

For half a century there has come ringing down to us amid the applause of posterity that splendid statement of Henry Clay, "I had rather be right than president." We have taught it to our children, and blazoned it to the world as the epigrammatic glory of representative government.

And yet here is a man who has twice with unruffled serenity put in practice what Henry Clay expounded in theory and balanced his honest convictions against the highest office in the world.

It does not matter that Mr. Bryan may be fallible and mistaken. Most of us think he is, and few of us will follow him. But a man's convictions are his own. They are his noblest guide, and where his political enemies, and disinterested observers in foreign lands, concede the absolute sincerity of the man, it is a small soul that cannot rise above the eagerness of political success to appreciate the civic grandeur of the act that holds faith above fortune, and integrity above success.

Mr. Bryan's plea for moral issues is noble and timely. In the reeking selfishness of this material age it sounds like a silver bugle clear and sweet. It is a west wind among the malarial odors of modern politics. It is, or ought to be, a tonic to the civic character of the nation as it is a glory to the personal honor of the citizen. Nothing higher, nothing finer has illustrated the annals of this political generation.

When the passion and hungry eagerness of this campaign are ended, we shall doubtless see this more clearly than we do now. At this time it is feared that we see nothing save what Henry Watterson calls "a chance to win," and the periphery of this selfish perspective hides the nobler view.

It is a sad commentary that the republican organs, ever frenzied as they have been against the silver propaganda, have done Mr. Bryan larger justice than his political friends have shown.

The editor of the News was a Cleveland democrat, and on the hustings and in the press was fighting Mr. Bryan's propaganda, when many who are now denouncing him were shouting themselves hoarse in homage to the fetish of silver. We are no nearer today than we were in 1896 to the Nebraska platform.

But there has never faded from our maturer years the youthful vision of an honest citizen as the noblest ornament of the state. And it is a genuine joy in this hour of strenuous partisanship and factional endeavor to lift our eyes above the smoke of battle and the mists of prejudice to salute this brave and splendid American who has once more illustrated in his civic integrity the highest ideals of the republic.—Atlanta (Ga.) News.

### Another Medical Major General.

Another army physician will become a major general when the military appropriations bill, now in conference committee, shall have passed. The bill provides for the consolidation of the office of adjutant general with the record and pension division of the war department and that the first officer to fill the place shall have the rank of major general. The present chief of the record and pension division, who will be the first incumbent

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